

Program and Administrative Highlights

Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)

1998: OASDI benefits increased by a 1.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment effective for December 1998. Amounts of taxable and creditable earnings increased in 1999 to \$72,600. In 1999, the amount of earnings required for a quarter of coverage increased to \$740. The retirement test exempt amounts increased to \$15,500 for persons aged 65–69 and \$9,600 for those under age 65.

Social Security

Number of beneficiaries, December 1998:

Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance	44.2 million
Old-Age Insurance	30.8 million
Retired workers	27.5 million
Survivors Insurance.....	7.1 million
Widows and widowers, nondisabled	4.8 million
Disability Insurance	6.3 million
Disabled workers	4.7 million

Average monthly benefits, December 1998:

Retired workers	\$780
Widows and widowers, nondisabled	749
Disabled workers	733

Benefit payments, 1998:

Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance	\$375.0 billion
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund	326.8 billion
Disability Insurance Trust Fund	48.2 billion

Number of workers in OASDI covered employment, 1998..... 148.5 million

Average earnings, 1998 \$27,748

Earnings required in 1999 for—

1 quarter of coverage	\$740
Maximum of 4 quarters of coverage	2,960

Earnings test exempt amounts for 1999:

Under age 65	\$9,600 (\$800 monthly)
Aged 65-69	\$15,500 (\$1,291.66 monthly)

Administrative costs, 1998:

OASI	\$1.9 billion
As a percent of total benefits paid6 percent
DI	\$1.6 billion
As a percent of total benefits paid	3.3 percent

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

1998: Effective January 1, 1999, 1.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment to federal benefit rates; new rates are \$500 monthly for an individual living in his or her own household and \$751 for a couple.

SSI

Total:	
Benefits paid in 1998	\$30.2 billion
Number of recipients, December 1998	6.6 million
Average benefit, December 1998	\$365.28
Federally administered payments:	
Benefits paid in 1998	\$29.4 billion
Number of recipients, December 1998	6.6 million
Average benefit, December 1998	\$359.45
Federal SSI payments:	
Benefits paid in 1998	\$26.4 billion
Number of recipients, December 1998	6.3 million
Average benefit, December 1998	\$336.06
Federally administered state supplementation:	
Benefits paid in 1998	\$3.0 billion
Number of recipients, December 1998	¹ 2.4 million
Average benefit, December 1998	\$102.33
State-administered supplementation:	
Benefits paid in 1998	\$0.8 billion
Number of recipients, December 1998	² 2.7 million
Average benefit, December 1998	\$102.97

¹ Includes 2.1 million persons receiving federal SSI and state supplementation and 0.3 million persons receiving state supplementation only.

² Includes 83,400 persons receiving state supplementation only.

Health Care

Medicare

Hospital Insurance (Part A):	
Total benefits paid in calendar year 1998	\$134.0 billion
Number of enrollees in July 1998	38.4 million
Supplementary Medical Insurance (Part B):	
Total benefits paid in calendar year 1998	\$76.1 billion
Number of enrollees in July 1998	36.8 million
Administrative costs, 1998:	
Hospital Insurance	\$1.8 billion
As a percent of total benefits paid	1.3 percent
Supplementary Medical Insurance	\$1.5 billion
As a percent of total benefits paid	2.0 percent

Medicaid

Medical service expenditures in fiscal year 1997	\$124.4 billion
Number of unduplicated recipients, fiscal year 1997	34.9 million

Black Lung

1999: Effective January 1, 1999, 3.1 percent adjustment to benefits of miners or widows; new amount is \$469.50 monthly.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/ Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

TANF/AFDC, 1997

Total payments	\$22.0 billion
Average monthly number of—	
Recipients	10.4 million
Families	3.8 million
Average monthly payment:	
Per recipient	\$177
Per family	490

Food Stamps

1998: Monthly Food Stamp benefits for the year beginning October 1 are \$419 for an eligible four-person household with no income. The standard deduction is \$134 monthly.

Average number of participants in fiscal year 1998	19.8 million
Benefits in fiscal year 1998	\$16.9 billion

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

1996 (fiscal year): States used \$0.86 billion in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds to assist about 4.2 million households with heating costs.

Unemployment Insurance

Total payments, 1998	\$19.9 billion
Payments under regular programs	19.9 billion
State programs	19.4 billion
Federal employees and ex-servicemembers4 billion
Extended Benefits program03 million
Average weekly insured unemployment (regular programs)	2.3 million

Poverty

1998 poverty income thresholds:	
Individual, aged 65 or older	\$7,818
Couple, householder aged 65 or older	9,863
Family of four	16,655